



Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island Recovery After Hurricane Sandy: Fact Sheet

For Immediate Release

Contact: John Harlan Warren, Acting Public Affairs Officer, 917-299-3843
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Storm Damage

On October 29, 2012, flood waters from Hurricane Sandy covered 75% of Liberty Island and all of Ellis Island. While the Statue of Liberty and the pedestal escaped damage, winds and flooding from the storm destroyed most of the infrastructure on both islands. This included electrical, water, sewage and HVAC systems, phone systems, security systems and radio equipment. Both the main visitor dock and the service dock on Liberty Island were severely damaged. The perimeter walkway and railings around Liberty Island were also severely damaged. Visitor security screening facilities at Battery Park in lower Manhattan and Liberty State Park in Jersey City, New Jersey were destroyed. Damages were estimated by the Department of the Interior at \$77 million for all of Statue of Liberty National Monument.

Accomplishments/Progress

Operations

- Maintenance, museum services, and other management operations continue with use of generator power and cell phone communications on Ellis Island. Permanent phone service has not yet been installed.
- The park continues to work on the recovery of the entire park. Work on Liberty will continue after reopening, while work on Ellis Island can now proceed at a faster pace. The NPS must not only rebuild, but rebuild in smart, sustainable ways. Damaged systems will be repaired and located them in places where they will be protected from future storms of similar magnitude.
- Screening facilities at Battery Park in lower Manhattan and Liberty State Park in Jersey City, New Jersey needed to be replaced entirely. The new facilities incorporate adequate space and state-of-the-art equipment. This will shorten the time necessary to go through screening and allow a greater number of visitors access to this American icon each day.

LIBERTY ISLAND (reopens July 4, 2013)

Power and HVAC

- The primary and secondary heating and electrical systems that serve the island were destroyed. The damaged systems included the boilers for the heating system and the

primary switchgear for the electrical system. These were formerly housed at the Administration Building and the Concessions Building, but will now be consolidated into a central plant, elevated above the FEMA floodplain elevation and placed in the existing, underutilized, Incinerator Building on Liberty Island. The improvements necessary to create the central plant include a new elevated structural floor. Both mechanical and electrical equipment will be located here.

- The new primary mechanical includes two boilers configured for dual fuel power. Each boiler has two, independent heating systems, fuel oil and natural gas. Either energy source can be used at any time without the need for modification of the boilers.
- Remaining secondary electrical and mechanical equipment were relocated to upper floors within each building where they are protected above the floodplain elevation.

Docks

- The Liberty Island Work Dock, a 7,060-square-foot timber dock, was assessed as a total loss and a hazard to navigation. It has been removed. Estimated material removed was approximately 220 tons.
- The work dock has been replaced through funding from a combination of NPS Sandy relief funds and the Federal Highway Administration, US Department of Transportation. The new dock is 275 feet long and 20 feet wide at its stem, made from marine-hardy timber. Approximately 42,000 board feet of lumber was used, held in place by 7,100 screws. Each new pile driven in to support the dock could hold more than 50 tons of weight; 194 new piles were used to support the new dock.
- The dock used by visitors remains damaged. A temporary 40' x 300' floating barge has been built and will be used by visitors until the main visitor dock is completed. Work on the main dock will begin after the reopening.

The Promenade

- The promenade walkway repairs on Liberty Island are almost finished. They require replacement of approximately 53,000 pavers. The previous asphalt base was removed entirely, down to the existing concrete to provide a more stable and sustainable starting base.
- Approximately 2000' of granite edging has been replaced.
- Regularly spaced expansion joints in the walkway will allow the system to expand and contract properly for island conditions.
- Approximately 17 top rails (240'), 32 intermediate rails (225'), 31 mesh panel sections and six posts are being replaced or repaired overall. Some areas with damaged railing have been repaired by removing and reusing sections of handrails from locations which are not visible to the public. Areas where the handrails were removed will have a different type of fencing/railing installed in Phase 2.

ELLIS ISLAND (not yet open to visitors)

Museum and Collection

- As there is no climate control to the Main Immigration Building, the park historic collection has been moved to an NPS climate-controlled facility in Maryland for safekeeping until the park is ready for its return. This move was supported by the NPS

Museum Emergency Response Team, consisting of NPS curatorial specialists from around the country. Since there is no permanent source of electrical power at Ellis Island, items were moved by dozens of staff down three flights of stairs by hand.

- The Ellis Island Museum Collection holds over one million items, including both archival documents and historic artifacts. The collection is available to researchers on a limited basis at its temporary location.

Next Steps

National Parks are economic engines to the local economy. Statue of Liberty National Monument drew 3.7 million visitors in 2011, the last full year the park was open. This contributed \$174 million contributed to the economies of New York and New Jersey and supported more than 2,200 jobs.

The NPS recognizes what the Statue of Liberty contributes to the local area. Now that Liberty Island is again open to visitors, the park will focus just as much energy on the recovery of Ellis Island. Staff will continue to work with the NPS Denver Service Center and the Northeast Regional Office to insure that the entire park is safe for visitors as soon as possible.

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